

FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING: July 27, 2012

The first meeting of fiscal year 2013 was held on July 27, 2012, at the Flatwoods Conference Center in Sutton, WV. Following are the minutes from that meeting:

- Meeting called to order by Chairman Epling.
- Seven members were present-enough members in attendance for a quorum.
- Those present were: Mr. Miles Epling, Mr. William "Bill" Harris, Mr. Randall Bare, Mr. Woody Williams, Mr. James DeCarlo, Cedric Greene, and Debra Tompkins.
- Motion made to dispense of reading of the minutes from last meeting. Motion seconded and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Veterans Home Residence Council Rules:

- Secretary Gwinn presented Veteran's Home Resident Council By-Law recommendations to the council for approval.
- Motion was moved and seconded to accept the Resident Council By-Laws as they were presented.
- Motion passed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

West Virginia Dept. of Veteran's Assistance Van Driver's Budget

- Secretary Gwinn reported shortfalls in van driver budget. Department is working with Senator Wells and Delegate Iaquina to seek a resolution to either increase our budget or possibly reduce the per diem from \$75 to \$50 per day. If issue is not resolved, we will be short \$120,000 again next year.
- Eight new vans have been ordered and there is \$150,000 more in our budget, so eight more will be ordered in January.

WW I Veteran in Mason County

- A WWI Medal of Honor Recipient is buried in Mason County in a dilapidated cemetery. The department is working with Culture and History and Mason County officials to determine if he has any remaining relatives and possibly relocate the remains to the DCKMSVC.

Mental Health and Veterans Court

- Department is working to establish Mental Health and Veterans Courts in various counties throughout the state.

Social Workers and DHHR (report by Deputy Secretary Bailey)

- Department is in the beginning stages of establishing a program to cross train social workers employed by DHHR with those employed by WVDVA.

Veteran Friendly Community Program

- WVDVA is working with the Governor's Office and Department of Highways to iron out details of Veteran Friendly Communities Program. Ideas include announcing two or three winners per year and providing them with road signage and a plaque.

Cemetery Plaque Honoring Council Members

- A plaque recognizing the work of the Council was ordered for placement at the cemetery and should be here soon.

Cemetery Issues

- Flags provided by the Post Office were soiled. They will now be inspected upon arrival and extras will be kept at the cemetery, so there is never a shortage of usable flags.
- Some issues with rifle blanks misfiring have been resolved. It was caused by user error. Some complaints were made about the color of the rifle adapter, which has since been painted black.
- Heavy equipment is just now arriving because orders were delayed until property was officially put in our name. Rental equipment has been in use until now.

Highway Signs (report by Deputy Secretary Bailey)

- Department is working with Transportation to get all veteran related highway signs pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order while complying with Federal Regulations. Kentucky didn't and it cost them 10% of their Federal money.
- Also working to make all veteran related road signs uniform in terms of what information they include about the veteran (branch of service, conflict, rank, etc).

War Orphans Program- (Request for change in maximum age limit)

- Woody Williams moves that the Council endorse the change. Motion seconded by Bill Harris.
- Motion carried.

Veterans Nursing Facility in Beckley

- Secretary Gwinn discussed possible nursing facility in Beckley with Governor. He supports it, but has no money for it. Secretary Gwinn requests permission of the Council to investigate possibility of establishing a smaller facility or taking over an empty wing at another facility.
- Motion to approve made by James DeCarlo, seconded by Debra Tompkins. Motion carried.

CEMETERY REPORT (by Larissa Wines, Administrator)

- Cemetery has been fully operational since Memorial Day, 2012.
- Since opening, 18 have been interred.
- Honor Guard now has approximately 30 volunteers.
- Deracho clean-up was difficult, but everything has been repaired now.
- Two more memorials have been approved: The Blue Star Memorial from the local garden club and the Underage Veterans Memorial.

VETERANS HOME REPORT (by Stacy Brown, Administrator)

- Current census is approximately 95.
- Slight flooding due to Deracho, but they have a generator, so they are up and running. No major issues.
- Administrator addressed gaps in communication between resident council members and other residents..

CLARKSBURG NURSING FACILITY (by Dr. Kevin Crickard, Administrator)

- Census is approximately 110 with 4 open rooms.
- Three policies implemented in Deracho response: Emergency Power Outage Policy, Heat Wave Policy, Emergency Staffing policy. Our power out emergency lasted about thirty-six (36) hours and we spent around \$20,000 We will be turning in a claim for that.
- Currently, the average veteran pays \$1200 (Twelve Hundred Dollars) a month to stay at the Veterans Home. At a typical facility, you would pay between \$5,000 and \$8,000 a month. The State Government pays a third of the cost for the

veteran, the Federal Government pays a third of the cost, and the veteran pays a third of the cost.

- Waiting list: First come, first served. The average length of stay is 3.6 years. The average wait on our waiting list is 1.2 years. We currently have three available beds and between 130 and 140 veterans now on our waiting list.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS:

- No motions made as result of visitor comments.
- Motion made to adjourn meeting and seconded....meeting adjourned.

A full transcript of the meeting is available at www.veterans.wv.gov.

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